Committees:

- Finance
- Energy & Utilities
- Trade & Economic Development
- House Democratic Representative to Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Washington Economic Development Finance Authority

In Olympia:

P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786-7970

At Home:

227 North 4th Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 416-7085

Legislative Hotline:

1-(800)-562-6000



Representative Jeff Morris

House of Representatives

Session 1998

Dear Friend,

Many issues face our community as we begin this 60-day supplemental session. I look forward to working with you to address several key areas over these next few months. As I return to our capital, it is important you keep me informed of your thoughts and concerns. You can make a difference, because your voice does matter to me.

For example, last year during consideration of a bill to create new fees on beekeepers, several beekeepers from our area contacted me with concerns about the measure. They felt that it was a bad bill for small bee operators. No one contacted me from our District saying they thought the bill was good policy so I had no reason to go along with the other 97 House members. I was the only vote against the bill in the entire House of Representatives. Although the bill passed the House overwhelmingly, it was eventually defeated. We achieved a victory for our constituents because they took the time to voice their concerns.

As we begin to tackle the issues this session, I look forward to hearing from you. Together, we can succeed in shaping our future and bring prosperity to our community.

Sincerely,

Representative

Jeff Morris

P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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District Issues

Economic Development.

Our state is experiencing some of the most prosperous times in history. Unfortunately, this prosperity has remained largely in urban areas. Rural communities have been left behind. With that concern in mind, I proposed a rural economic development plan to you last fall. I will continue my work on that plan by introducing five bills this session. Below are the proposals I have made, please contact my office for specific bill numbers.

- HB 2420 restores the Timber Retraining Benefits cut by the majority party last session.
- New legislation that provides tax incentives offsetting the costs of retraining workers for today's high technology, international economy.
- A bill that provides tax incentives for companies that hire new workers in economically distressed areas.
- Bills to encourage international marketing efforts through grants to companies and individuals.

Please call Governor Locke on the legislative hotline and ask him to support these common sense proposals. Together we can bring prosperity to our working families.

1 (800) 562-6000

State Ferry Service.

No agency has been more troubling to me than the Washington State Ferry Service (WSF). With proper management, the Anacortes to Sidney ferry route rider ship has increased 12% thus far over the previous year. When local communities begin their marketing efforts this year the route will once again make money for our state and help subsidize other runs. The reality is that we have a shortage of Ferry boats to meet demand. As long as that



condition exists, we need to remain vigilant in guarding against attempts to rob one ferry run to service another

Fall Ferry Service.

Many 40th District residents were caught of guard this past year when WSF failed to provide extra ferry capacity to the San Juans between the Summer and Winter sailing schedules. Four to eight hour waits were reported to me during this time. I'll be working with Senator Harriet Spanel and Representative Dave Quall to mandate the funding and provision of extra capacity to meet demand during this crucial time.

Simple Solution.

I recently proposed to the Department of Transportation that they talk with the State of Alaska about leasing a ferry from the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) to service the run to Sidney while our boats are being retrofitted to meet new Coast Guard safety standards. Currently, the state ferry service has a plan that shifts different boats around during the winter schedule over three years creating different load capacities at different times. By

simply replacing one boat with another boat from AMHS we will lose no capacity on existing routes to the San Juan's, ensure more reliable scheduling, and create a stepping stone to regional cooperation in ferry service that could lead to greater taxpayer savings. I encourage you to call the state ferry service at (206) 515-3400 or e-mail them at wsf@wsdot.wa.gov at ask them to support looking

into the Alaska Ferry Proposal.

Honoring Senator Luvera

A number of you have written letters requesting that we bonor the late Senator Paul Luvera. In response to those requests, I drafted a bill naming the Highway 20 spur from Sharp's Corner to Anacortes as the Paul N. Luvera Memorial Highway. Senator Luvera passed away in 1990 after a lifetime of public service. He secured funding for the segment of SR20 stretching from the south end of Commercial Avenue in Anacortes to the Deception Pass/Whidbey Island Junction. If you have comments about this proposal please let me know quickly.